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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Raoul Gustaf Wallenberg - August 4, 1947 - 1949

1. Raoul Wallenberg, the humanitarian Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews during World War II and reportedly has been held by the Soviets since 1945, is again in the news. Israeli Prime Minister Begin asked President Carter last week to raise the Wallenberg issue with Soviet leader Brezhnev in Vienna. The case raises some interesting questions about Wallenberg's possible affiliation with Western intelligence and the Soviets' reasons for being extremely vague about why he was arrested and what really happened to him.

2. According to the Wallenberg file [] Raoul is a cousin twice removed of Jacob and Marcus Wallenberg, the famous Swedish banking family. His aunt is the wife of Colonel William F. Calvin, a former US military attache stationed in Stockholm, presumably prior to World War II. Wallenberg attended the University of Michigan in 1934-35. Various State Department and Embassy Stockholm dispatches near the end of the war and since suggest that Wallenberg had acquaintances in the US diplomatic community and elsewhere in Washington--perhaps even in the White House.

3. Wallenberg went to Budapest in 1944 as a neutral with Swedish diplomatic immunity on a mission for the International Red Cross to arrange the transit of Jews to Sweden. He established a number of "safe houses" under the Swedish flag throughout Hungary to collect Jews until Swedish passports could be printed and the Jews could be sent to Sweden. He is credited with saving as many as 20,000 lives before the Soviets "liberated" Hungary. Wallenberg was last seen by Western officials on 17 January 1949.

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4. Initially, the Soviets denied having anything to do with Wallenberg's disappearance. Over the years, however, they have variously contended that he was "assassinated" by members of the Hungarian Nazi Arrow Cross organization during the final days of the war and also that he had died of a heart attack while in a Soviet prison in 1947. There was no official Soviet explanation about why he had been arrested, but a member of the Soviet Legation in Stockholm in 1947 reportedly claimed that Wallenberg was being "taken care of" because of some "Polish things" he had done, but that he was not a prisoner.

5. The Soviets may have suspected Wallenberg of intelligence work as a result of documents they found in the Swedish Legation in Budapest. According to the Soviets, the documents indicated that the Swedes had extended protection to anti-Soviet Russians in Hungary. It was also rumored that Wallenberg had acted as a go-between for Hungarian Admiral Horthy's attempt to arrange a separate, last minute peace with the UK and the US.

6. Over the years successive Swedish governments have kept the Wallenberg case open by periodically questioning the Soviet leadership about the missing diplomat's whereabouts. Wallenberg's family and friends formed the Wallenberg Committee and kept the issue before the public as well. American diplomatic correspondence also has reflected interest in Wallenberg. A US Embassy cable from Stockholm in 1955, for example, advised State Department that the Swedish press might publish a story about Wallenberg including "his conviction by the Soviets as a spy." Two years later, the Embassy reported that the secretary of the Wallenberg Committee in Sweden claimed that Wallenberg was a friend of Hershel Johnson, a "former American minister" who had selected Wallenberg for a secret mission for President Roosevelt.

7. A number of former political prisoners released by the Soviets have claimed that they knew Wallenberg while in prison. Most recently, Abraham Kalinski, a former Soviet prisoner who is now an Israeli citizen, was interviewed by Swedish authorities last December and claimed to have seen Wallenberg several times in various prisons between 1942 and 1947. Kalinski also claimed that prison colleagues had seen Wallenberg in Vladivostok, where he was held in a prison hospital.

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SUBJECT: Raoul Gustaf Wallenberg - August 4, 1914 - ???

in 1975. Kalinski's testimony prompted the Swedish government to send a note to the Soviets last January demanding that another investigation be carried out. The Soviet's simply repeated their assertion that Wallenberg had died in Lubyanka prison in 1947.

8.

In a message from Allied Headquarters in Caserta, Italy in May 1945 it was reported that a General Key had queried the Soviets concerning the whereabouts of Wallenberg, Meier, and Feller. Coincidentally, the Parade Sunday supplement of 11 February 1979 carried a feature on the OSS, including a picture of three "agents." Only one was identified and his name was Mayer--not Meier, but close--and one of the other men in the picture bore a resemblance to Wallenberg. If there is any connection between the General's dispatch and the picture, the third man could be Feller.

9. Whether or not Wallenberg was involved in espionage during World War II is a moot point at this stage in history. His obvious humanitarian acts certainly outweigh any conceivable "spy" mission he may have been on. Why then have the Soviets remained so uncooperative in the matter for nearly 35 years? Perhaps his arrest was a mistake, certainly such things happened in the chaotic aftermath of the war. The obvious embarrassment of having arrested such a humanitarian would increase world opinion against the Soviets, of course, and successive leaders would tend to avoid a full disclosure, as they, in fact, have done. Nevertheless, the Swedes and the Israelis are correct in pressing for the complete details concerning the fate of Raoul Wallenberg, one of the oldest outstanding human rights cases of World War II.

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